

Minutes of the RHIC/AGS Users' Executive Committee Meeting 19 April 2002

Present: R. Chrien, S. Kettell, J. Mitchell, R. Seto (chair), S. White-DePace, P. Yamin (secretary)

Telephone: M. Lisa

Absent: B. Basselleck, J. Engelage, M. Rosati, J. Thomas

Guests: J. Bagley (on telephone), B. Johnson, T. Kirk, D. Lowenstein, T. Ludlam, P. Paul, S. Sevia

Sue Sevia (liaison from ITD) described the interest that ITD has in improving communication with users. She asked that we suggest topics of particular interest (e.g., wireless networking, security audits) that could be addressed by ITD representatives at UEC meetings. Richard Seto said that Peter Paul had commented that while BNL staff is well represented on the cyber security committee (CSAC), users are not. Seto will ask Jack Engelage to represent us.

Richard Seto introduced Jack Bagley, Washington lobbyist for Battelle, who spoke to us by telephone about efforts to restore funding for high energy physics at the AGS for FY03. Bagley said that members of the House Energy & Water Subcommittee were sympathetic to our situation and committed to solving the problem. In his conversations with Subcommittee members, Bagley said that he had emphasized the importance of the AGS both to US and foreign users. However, as the final mark-up will not take place until middle or late May, there have been no concrete results.

Bagley said that no contacts have yet been made with Senate committees, but that Peter Paul will do so on May 1st. He added that the staffs of Senators Clinton and Schumer have been helpful, but stressed that users should contact *their* senators. However, all comments should be positive: ask for restoration of AGS funds, but don't suggest that a particular program be cut. Richard Seto asked whether the effort to increase the funding for DOE/Science by \$300M was related to the AGS effort. Bagley replied, "somewhat." Steve Kettell asked about Representative Grucci's letter to other congressmen. Bagley said that while the letter has been sent and is helpful, it is more important for congressmen to hear from their constituents. Peter Paul said that his impression is that we have been well-received in Washington; he has had positive conversations with Representatives Edwards (Texas), Frelinghuysen (NJ), and Pastor (AZ). Tom Kirk commented that UEC letter to Edwards, Pastor, Wamp (TN), and Frelinghuysen in which we said that we represent more than 1000 users had been helpful. He also said that spokespeople for the E821 (g-2) and E787/949 ($K^+ \rightarrow \pi^+ \nu \bar{\nu}$) would make a pitch at the 5/26-27 HEPAP meeting for support for the AGS HEP program.

Susan White-DePace described some quality-of-life efforts now underway. Enterprise Rent-a-Car is now established on site, and a BSA car is available to users for after hours use on site. She said that Jeff Swensen would like to meet with the UEC. Discussions are underway with Staff Services to see if clean linens can be provided to team housing, vending machines can be added to the dormitories, and water quality in the housing units is being discussed. Evelyn Silverman has been appointed as a full-time off-site housing coordinator. Appointment renewals can soon be handled by e-mail, and a new patent agreement document is being drafted that will apply to all user facilities.

[At this point, the secretary had to leave the meeting to participate in a conference call. The remaining minutes were taken by S. White-DePace. --PY]

Thesis Award. Five applications, or pieces of applications, have been received to-date. A list of students, institutions and/or thesis titles was provided to Seto so that he may assemble a review committee.

Charter. Chrien provided a handout with suggested charter changes. A few wording changes were recommended, discussed, and accepted. The main topics discussed include discussions on Ex-officio membership, an official role for the RHIC & AGS User Administrator on the UEC, voting rights of Ex-officio members, and the term of the Chairperson of the UEC. The consensus of the discussions follows. Chrien will incorporate all the suggestions into a new draft that will be discussed at the next UEC meeting.

- It was decided that only elected members of the UEC would have the right to vote.
- The RHIC & AGS User Administrator will be an Ex-officio member of the UEC to provide a formal mechanism for the interaction between the UEC and Brookhaven management.
- The UEC should adopt the APS model for Chairperson. In this model the office of Chair-elect is defined. S/he would be voted on each year, and would preside at the next meeting. Continuity would be maintained by providing for an office of Past Chair. The three-year term would thus be Chair-elect, Chair, and Past Chair.
- There was also discussion on the sequence of the Charter.

Student Program: Jeff Mitchell presented a status report on what progress has been made on the student program initiative. Many meetings have taken place. The following is a synopsis of what has taken place.

- Jennifer Lynch's Monday Movie night will be incorporated into the student program. Advertising for this has already started.
- Discussions were held with the NSLS Student representative, Cecilia Sanchez-Hanke. The NSLS UEC sponsors a pizza night for students twice a month. Jeff and Susan are going to coordinate a pizza/journal night on the weeks that the Light Source does not host their pizza night. These pizza/journal nights would probably rotate around the laboratory and highlight science being done at different facilities and departments.
- Susan is setting up a designated time at the Brookhaven pool on Saturdays for a Student Swim program.
- Jeff is willing to set-up a volleyball/barbeque night during the summer months.
- Working on incorporating the Thursday Science Discussion Group, sponsored by CEGPA, into a student program.
- At Tom Kirk's suggestion, Jeff and Susan have been speaking to the Associate Laboratory Directors about this program. They have received positive feedback and have full support from all they have spoken to.

Annual Meeting. The outcome of the discussion on the Annual Meeting is below.

- The voting for UEC elections will be done electronically this year. There will be no mailings. In order to accommodate this, the Users' Center will put together a web page that people can use to cast their votes. A list server that BNL employees can subscribe to will also be made available so that BNL employees can vote in the UEC elections.

- A draft poster was passed around. Everyone liked it.
- Theme for the meeting was discussed. Seto asked Mike Lisa to solicit feedback from others in the community about the theme suggestion.
- Keynote speakers discussed were Ray Orbach and Jack Marburger. Seto will talk to Peter Paul about this.
- A poster session should be part of the Users' Meeting.
- Announcement should go out as soon as possible.
- No travel will be paid for invited speakers.
- Dinner should remain at Brookhaven. Yamin mentioned that travel was paid in the past for a speaker who made a presentation at the dinner.
- Suggested topics were discussed. The broad topics were RHIC physics, NASA Radiobiology Program, Fix-target AGS physics, and RHIC II and EIC update and plans.
- Meal tickets for Saturday's lunch will have to be purchased by the attendees of the meeting in order to eliminate staff services personnel requirements and overhead costs associated with that.
- Meeting will take place in Berkner Hall on September 20 to accommodate the poster session and will move to Physics on September 21.

--SW-DP